

# AGAWAM

## Advertiser News

AUGUST 21, 2014

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## News saturates community with local content

Dear Reader:

We are pleased to provide this week's issue of *Agawam Advertiser News* mailed to every resident for free over the next two weeks. Enclosed you will find a remittance envelope that you may submit to either extend your current subscription or begin a new one.

We resisted the temptation to take to the phones, interrupt your dinner and make our subscription pitch. Instead, our preferred way of continuously growing our readership is to share a couple of copies of the paper with you, enclose a subscription envelope and await the returns. We're proud of our work and hope you find it brings you closer to understanding your community. We're hoping for a good response from this campaign because we'll then be able to provide even more value to the local businesses that support us.

There are no plans to rest on our laurels. Our pledge is to continue to work hard at providing even better local news coverage. Your suggestions as to how we can do a better job are always welcome. We're a family-owned company with a deep commitment to the towns we serve. We want to meet, and if possible, exceed your expectations.

We'll be arriving at your home next week, too. So please take a moment to consider the service we provide and enjoy the paper. We hope to be arriving at your home every week for years to come. Thanks so much. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Sincerely,  
**Patrick Turley**  
Publisher  
Turley Publications  
Palmer, MA

## Finding the family tree

AGAWAM – The Agawam Public Library held an informative public event titled, “The ABC’s of Genealogy Research with Dave Robison” on Monday. The MA Summer Reading Program event taught attendees the basic “ins” and “outs” of researching family history in today’s society and effective ways to organize the data.



Above, David Robison and the Agawam Public Library had a good turnout for the event. Top, Robison teaches how to read a relationship grid.

Agawam News photos by Kimberly Hatch

An antique document dating back to the year 1636.

## Buyer eyes ‘Games and Lanes’ property

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
Turley Publications  
Correspondent

AGAWAM – A buyer is moving closer to purchasing the former Games and Lanes property that has been mired in controversy for more

than 14 years.

Scott Petlock, a go-kart track owner from Ware, is seeking to close on the Games and Lanes property this week, his wife, Maria Petlock, confirmed on Monday.

“He has been working with the bank and the property owner and he is hoping to finish closing the

property this Friday,” Maria said.

If the property is purchased by Scott Petlock, it would be a very positive sign for the business district on Walnut Street Extension.

Since 2000, the Games and Lanes property has become dilapidated and has fallen into severe disrepair. Complicating the matter

have been environmental issues that have made it nearly impossible for the property to be sold. The town of Agawam administration has not gotten involved because of the cost to the taxpayers. Agawam could have seized the property

See PROPERTY, page 16

## Council endorses stricter rules for pawn shops

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
Turley Publications  
Correspondent

AGAWAM – After a few months of tabling, the Agawam City Council recently approved an updated bylaw for secondhand and junk dealers.

Mayor Richard Cohen stated in the application to the council that the ordinance has not been updated since it was adopted in 1972.

Several surrounding towns have updated and in some cases, established a local bylaw or ordinance governing the businesses in order to allow police departments the ability to investigate and recover

stolen property from these businesses.

Agawam Police Chief Eric Gillis said he reviewed the bylaw in January after he took over as chief and found the previous ordinance had deficiencies. There have been changes in crime patterns and technologies since that time.

Article I of the bylaw has been completely deleted and replaced with new definitions for what pawnbrokers and secondhand junk dealers are. A license fee for secondhand junk dealers was raised to \$200.

Another part of the law allows the police chief in Agawam the

See RULES, page 16

## Voters to soon decide Humason challenger, DA candidate

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
Turley Publications  
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Agawam voters will have two major local races to make decisions about in the Sept. 9 State Primary Election in addition to the ability to weigh in on their choices to run for governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The big decision for Democrats and unenrolled voters choosing to participate will be to choose a challenge for state Sen. Don Humason, R-Westfield. Democrats Christopher Hopewell, the chairman of the Holyoke Fire Commis-

sion, and Patrick Leahy, a Holyoke police officer, are both seeking to gain the Democratic nomination to challenge the new state senator.

Humason is seeking a quick reelection after winning a seat in the state senate just last year. Humason was a state representative for Westfield for more than 11 years and succeeded his mentor, former state Sen. Michael Knapik. Humason defeated former Holyoke City Councilor David Bartley and Agawam was a swing town for Humason in the 11-town district.

No Republicans have come out to challenge Humason. Humason defeated Mike Franco of Holyoke in a primary election last year.

The other local race is for district attorney in Hampden County. Now-U.S. District Judge Mark Mastroianni has vacated his seat after serving the county for just four years. There are four Democrats that are vying for the opportunity to run for DA.

Attorney Shawn Allyn, a resident of Agawam who practices in Holyoke, is looking to defeat Longmeadow attorney Hal Etkin,

See VOTERS, page 11



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# Local cancer advocate garners major role in national telecast

**By Mike Lydick**  
*Turley Publications*  
*Correspondent*

AGAWAM - Janine Iacolo, a driving force locally in the fight against cancer, is playing a key role in an upcoming national cancer fund-raising telecast next month.

Isacolo, co-chair of the Relay For Life of Agawam since its inception in 2012, will co-host a Springfield area viewing party for the primetime TV fundraiser Friday, Sept. 5. The 7 p.m. viewing party at Springfield College is part of a collaboration between the American Cancer Society (ACS) and a grassroots movement known as Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C). The hour-long national telecast will be broadcast commercial-free from Los Angeles. It will be aired on all three major TV networks as well as several national cable networks starting at 8 p.m.

**Hundreds of local viewing parties nationwide**

The Springfield viewing party is one of more than 200 across the country vying for the opportunity to be featured during the live telecast. Money raised from the SU2C viewing parties will support the SU2C Lung Cancer Dream Team that is funded in part by the ACS.

Since being tapped as co-host in July, Iacolo has been networking, recruiting, planning and making preparations.

"Basically, whatever is needed to host a successful event," she said. "I'm not sure what the night will bring, but I know I will be meeting and greeting, thanking, recognizing and soliciting donations."

Iacolo is part of a four-

member team that has been working out of the ACS's New England Division office in Holyoke to plan the viewing party. She said she was "surprised and very honored" to be asked to be a co-host.

## Opportunity to continue the fight against cancer

"This is an opportunity to not only continue the fight against cancer, but also to get national recognition for the hard work we do here in Western Massachusetts," said Iacolo.

Bridgett Herzog, a senior manager for ACS Relay events, heads up the team. She said Iacolo is performing a vital role by helping to publicize the event and to drive recruitment/registration.

"Janine is contributing to event planning and its execution on the night of the event," said Herzog. "This is a unique event that will be fun, entertaining and a nice way to continue to cultivate strong relationships in the community with a broader scope than just Relay,"

Herzog personally selected Iacolo as a co-host because of her "exceptional job" driving recruitment in the community for the Relay For Life of Agawam.

"Janine's passion for the organization drives her to great success in mobilizing people to take action in the fight against cancer," she said.

The Relay is just one part of the work ACS does in the fight against cancer, but Herzog said it represents its largest constituent base for mobilizing communities to take action at the local level.

## Showcasing the work of Relays

Iacolo said Relay events are a very important piece of the work ACS does in the fight against cancer.



Turley Publications photo  
by Mike Lydick

**Janine Iacolo, co-chair of the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Agawam since its inception in 2012, will co-host a Springfield area viewing party for a national primetime TV cancer fundraiser Sept. 5. She is shown here during opening ceremonies for the 2014 Relay.**

“The Sept. 5 event will put a focus on how people involved in RFL events maintain a high level of commitment to help finish the fight against cancer,” she said.

She added that the viewing party will showcase how Relay events raise much-needed funds, awareness, and support for those affected by cancer. The telecast will highlight the work of Stand Up To Cancer's Dream Teams of cancer researchers, and acknowledge SU2C's corporate supporters and non-profit collaborators. Additionally, SU2C will feature celebrity ambassadors and musical performances.

Herzog said although ACS has had some involvement in the past three SU2C telecasts

that aired in 2008, 2010 and 2012, this the first time it has formalized its relationship with SU2C.

"Our organization has committed to a financial contribution at a national level in support of SU2C's cancer research efforts," said Herzog. "We are supporting the SU2C movement locally with awareness and fundraising via viewing parties for the live telecast."

## Focusing on lung cancer

The “Dream Team” is the first project of the collaboration. It is a \$20 million research project focused on lung cancer, the leading cancer killer of men and women in the U.S. The Dream Team will be jointly funded by ACS and SU2C over a three-year period to develop new therapies for lung cancer. Each group will provide half the funding.

There is a \$25 registration

fee to attend the SU2C viewing party that will be credited to a 2015 Relay event in the Springfield area. The fee also includes a commemorative T-shirt, luminaria, and refreshments, as well as the chance to bid on exclusive silent auction items and win door prizes.

"Each Relay event that brings at least 10 members will be recognized for their support at the event," said Iacolo. "All monies raised will be credited to the individual Relays, starting our fund-raising efforts off on an early, positive note."

Iacolo said she is looking forward to the event.

"It will be exciting to see people together continuing our commitment against cancer, without it being a Relay event," she said. "It also will be exciting to watch what the celebrities offer during the viewing party – especially if we have a chance to Skype

## Drug Take Back Day set for Sept. 27

National Drug Take Back Day is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 27 at Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main St., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The purpose of this free collection day is to allow residents to dispose of old medications, drugs and syringes safely, with no questions asked.

Used needles, syringes and lancets will be collected in approved sharps containers only.

Puncture-proof laundry bottles will not be accepted. Items not accepted include chemo drugs, IV bags as well as liquids of any type.

This event is sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Agawam Health Department, Agawam Police Department, Agawam MRC and the Agawam mayor's office.



# ARE YOU OLD NEWS?

Each week the *Agawam Advertiser News* digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured. Email your answers by Monday at noon to [tkane@turley.com](mailto:tkane@turley.com).



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# Opinion

## We are 'your' newspaper

Thank you for opening this special subscription edition of the *Agawam Advertiser News*. We would like to thank you for welcoming us into your home this week to show you what we have to offer.

The Agawam Advertiser News has a rich history in Agawam and has been the hub for local news and sports since 1965. The good news this year is we've been blessed to hire and retain very talented writers, photographers and office staff who are long-time residents of Agawam or directly neighboring communities. You may know their names from high school yearbooks and your own neighborhood, including Kimberly Hatch, Teri Machia, John Baskin, James Paleologopoulos, Greg Scibelli, Mike Lydick, Kelly Bronson, and Christopher Faille. We are already very connected to you and love Agawam as home.

When there has been major news that has affected this community, we have been right on top of it. When a tornado hit the town in 2011, we had stories of those affected. When the Oct. 29, 2011 snowstorm hit and power was out to most for a week, the *Agawam Advertiser News* dug its way out there to get the story that affected everyone. When the high school ice hockey and volleyball teams won state titles in 2013, we were there to capture the moment.

We hope that you will enjoy this copy and see what is happening in Agawam this week. We will be profiling many different aspects of town news from action on the city council to the beginning of the sports preseason.

And this is just the beginning. The calendar is turning to September soon and that means the town will be full of activity with students back in school and town government coming back off summer schedules.

That means the *Agawam Advertiser News* will be full of stories about what your sons and daughters are doing in school. They will be filled with sports action from all your favorite teams. They will also be filled with action from your elected council and school committee. And most importantly, your pages will be filled with a reflection of yourselves.

Elections are also coming up this fall, and we will be sure to provide you the best coverage possible in the races for your elected state and federal legislators.

In order to provide this great coverage, we need you, the readers, to subscribe.

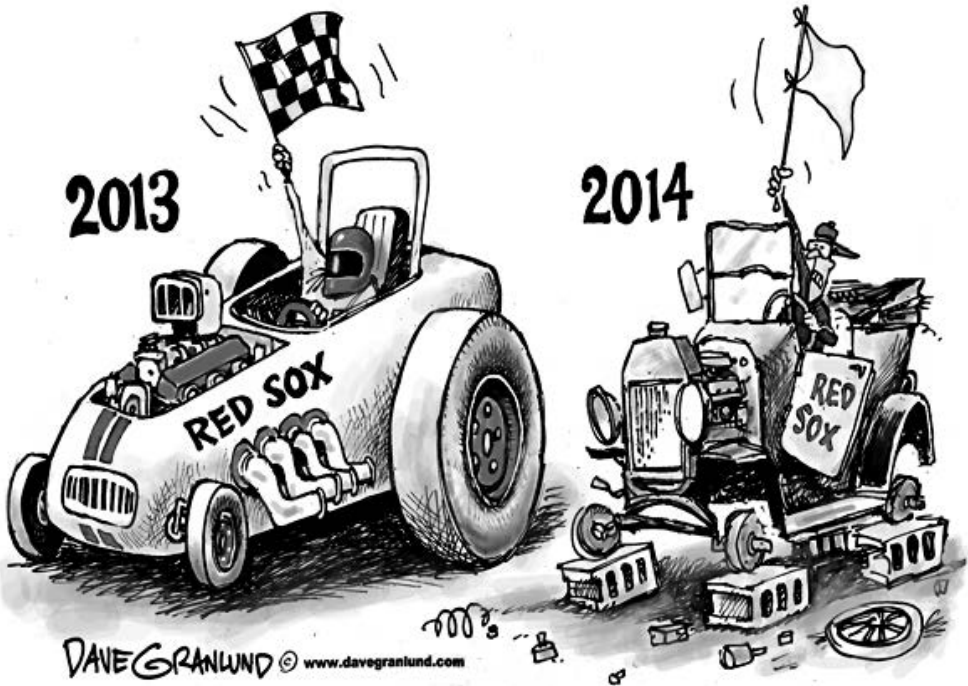
The *Agawam Advertiser News* wants to hear from you. We want to hear from individuals, families, local civic and community service groups, church groups, sports teams, the schools, and the town government. Please send us your submissions and let us know about your events. We want to know what is going on in town. We want to hear from you and know what you want to see in the newspaper.

The best way to do that is to make a community submission to [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com), or submit a letter to the editor. By doing this, we can get to the pulse of the people and be your paper. This newspaper is dedicated to the people of Agawam. If it is Agawam news, then we want to be on top of it.

There are already so many great things happening, many ongoing stories and we want you to be on top of your local news and we want to make every edition one that you're going to want to keep reading for the entire week.

Thank you again, and we hope you enjoy your mailed edition this week and next week. After, please subscribe or find an *Agawam Advertiser News* at many local businesses in town and please send your submissions to us so that we can connect with you!

Letters to the Editor must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or e-mail [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com).



## Letters to the Editor

### National Night Out even bigger this year

To the editor:

The Agawam Police Department would like to thank the following individuals and community partners for making Agawam's second Annual National Night Out a bigger success than last year's event.

Mayor Richard Cohen, the Agawam Police Specials, the Agawam Fire Department, the Agawam Department of Public Works, the Agawam Parks and Recreations Department the Agawam Public Schools Department, the Agawam High School Athletic Department, Agawam D.A.R.E. Program, Agawam Addiction Resource Center, Agawam Animal Control, Agawam Emergency Management, the Massachusetts State Police, the U.S. Marshall's Office, the Hampden County Sheriff's Office, Massachusetts Juvenile Probation Department – Springfield Office, Mr. Keith Gibbings, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency – MEMA, the Lions Club, the Rotary Club, Bethany Assembly of God, Mr.

Timothy Reed, Easthampton Savings Bank, Mrs. Susan DeVillier, the United States Army, Republic Services, the Academy of Artistic Performance, H.P. Hood LLC, Sarat Ford, the Kiwanis Club, the Agawam Family and Community Program, The Q 99.7 FM, Competitive Edge Bike and Ski Shop, Mrs. Shelby Hall-Gibbons, Let's Move Initiative, the YMCA of Greater Springfield, Six Flags New England, the Shriners, USA Towing, Valley Green Shredding, Skip's Outdoor Accents, TNT Tent Rentals, Junior/Veteran Marines Corp., Mr. Alan Cohen, Ricky's Porta Potty.

We also thank everyone else that volunteered and participated in our National Night Out event this year. Without their help, time and resources, this event would not have been possible and successful.

**Robert M. Burke**  
*School Resource Officer*  
*Agawam Police Department*

### Community support helps grieving family

To the editor:

On May 13, 2014, my daughter, Gianna Marie Ugolini passed away suddenly, leaving our whole family devastated.

In the days and weeks that followed, we have been overwhelmed by the support our community gave to us toward her final arrangements and for her son Connor. Without all the support, we never would have made it through those darkest days.

Gianna was a daughter, sister, granddaughter, mother, niece, goddaughter, friend, medical student, dance instructor and student, neighbor and co-worker.

We especially want to thank the following businesses and individuals. You have touched our hearts and your kindness will never be forgotten.

All of our generous "gofundme" donators; Paula

Preston, Sybil Tracy; Dante Club, Bobby Robare, Jay Biuso; James Clark Elementary School PTO; Agawam Junior High, Team Penn; Agawam Flower Shop; Goodless Electric; Pediatric Associates of Hampden County; Adolfo's Restaurant; Nicky's Pizza, Randy Holmes; Tracey and Mike Moran; Laura Carrie; Bruno Pizzeria; Big Y, Longmeadow; Krista Sapelli, Storowton Tavern; Salvatore's Restaurant; E.B.'s Restaurant; Samuel's Tavern; Villa Napoletana; Giovanni's Bakery; Geissler's Supermarket; Pasticceria Italia; Sorrento Pizza; Lisa Blair and family.

To my dear friend, Karin Cook Willett, I can't thank you enough for organizing the "gofundme." I truly couldn't have done it without you.

**Gina (Ugolini) Mancini**  
*Feeding Hills*

## HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

The Agawam Independent—Thursday, August 20, 1964 Page 3

**"Wizard of Oz" Children Show At Mt. Tom**

The Mt. Tom Playhouse has added a unique note to its full schedule of starring productions for the summer. It has been announced by Playhouse producer Hugh Fordin that a special children's show will be presented on Saturday morning, Aug. 22nd at 11 o'clock.

"The Wizard of Oz" has been selected for presentation. The play will be performed by the celebrated Traveling Playhouse of Kenand Kay Rockefeller, now in its 15th season of playing exclusively to audiences of children. Of all the children's shows made famous by this dedicated, talented group in over 800 performances before over half a million children, "The Wizard of Oz" has become the most popular.

"The Wizard of Oz" is a full-length musical production containing all the familiar songs from the movie version along with several new musical numbers by Al Monty and choreographed by Elizabeth Williamson.

All of Oz's favorite characters appear in the play—Dorothy and Toto, her dog; her companions on the trip to Emerald City, Scarecrow, Tin Woodman and Cowardly Lion, as well as the Wizard, the Wickedest Witch, Glenda and Good Witch, the Munchkins and a Flying Monkey. A special grant from the Rockefeller Foundation made possible the Traveling Playhouse and enabled them to embark on a program of plays primarily devoted to children in the 6 to 12 years of age bracket. The entire production is under the direction of Kay Rockefeller.

The special performance will be one matinee only at the Mt. Tom Playhouse on Saturday morning, Aug. 22nd at 11 o'clock a.m.

During Abraham Lincoln's term as president, the suggestion was made at a cabinet meeting that greenbacks bear the words "IN GOD WE TRUST" as did silver coins.

On this week 50 years ago there was an article in the Agawam Independent that advertised the "Wizard of Oz" children show at Mt. Tom. The theater at Mt. Tom in Holyoke was popular back in the mid-1900s and was located in Mountain Park. Mountain Park was originally designed as a trolley park by the Holyoke Street Railway Company but grew to include an open air theater as well as a merry-go-round, dance hall, and restaurant. As the park grew to include more features such as rides and a new theater, its popularity grew as well. The heyday of the park and theater was in the 1960s which was when the article about the "Wizard of Oz" play was published. The Mt. Tom playhouse was met with difficulties in the 1980s and early 1990s that forced the park to lose most of its buildings to fires and cause the popularity of the park to drop. After being bulldozed in 2003, Mountain Park reopened Saturday, Aug. 15, 2009 as a concert venue. "New England's Finest Amphitheater" as Mountain Park is still called, remains open now offering its next concert Saturday, Sept. 6.

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# WHERE IS IT?

Each week *Agawam Advertiser News* will feature a photo of a local building, item, sign, place or landmark and ask readers to pick their brains to figure out where it is or even what it is. Check here each week to test your knowledge of the area where we live and work. The photo will be from either Agawam or Feeding Hills, but we'll always give you a hint or two.

The answer to this week's "Where is it?" will run in next week's edition along with the name of the first person to submit a correct answer and a new trivia photo for you to consider.

E-mail answers or future Where Is It? suggestions to editor Tim Kane at [tkane@turley.com](mailto:tkane@turley.com).



This staircase leads to a popular place where music is played in the summer. Do you know where it is?

Last week's photo: No one correctly identified last weeks photo so we will leave it as such.



# School staff fingerprint ID system activated

By James Paleologopoulos  
*Correspondent*

AGAWAM - With the new school year approaching, Agawam Public School faculty will be getting in gear and buying supplies for the incoming wave of students. However, with a new fingerprint identification in place, new hires will have an extra \$35 - \$55 fee to pay due to a new security system.

Going into effect July 14, all new hired staff are now required to submit fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation while paying its fee as part of a 2013 law, "An Act Relative to Background Checks," that brought Massachusetts up to speed with all 49 other states.

With previous staff having until September 2016 to register and pay the fee as well, the change has been accepted for the most part due to its added security when screening those who'll be coming in contact with younger children.

However, the \$55 fee for certified teachers and \$35 fee required of all other employees, ranging from bus drivers to cafeteria workers, have been taken issue with by groups such as the Massachusetts Teachers Association and the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts. The groups argue the amount should have been covered by the

state or subsidized. It's a sentiment Agawam Superintendent William Sapelli understands but said "is necessary, though, in this day and age."

Employees are currently required to undergo a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check, but schools are only given records from Massachusetts, Sapelli explained.

"If someone did something Connecticut or New Hampshire, it wouldn't show up in the CORI," he said. "Fingerprinting, though, is federal."

Transported by MorphoTrust USA, the contracted company submitting the fingerprints data to the FBI, the only two local facilities for teachers to travel and submit prints to are in Springfield and Pittsfield, of the 34 locations planned to open across the state. With the distance being another point of aggravation, especially for educators far from either points, Sapelli said the task can be frustrating for teachers.

But since a CORI check does not cover everything bit of background immediately, it's a needed change that brings the Commonwealth up to speed with the rest of the nation.

"The number one concern is safety," he said. "And this is a step in the right direction."

# Area students invited to 'Back-to-School BBQ'

Lighthouse Christian Center, located at 522 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, will host a Back-to-School BBQ Backpack event Saturday, Aug. 30 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Lighthouse will give away a backpack filled with school supplies to the first 100 Agawam and/or Feeding Hills students in attendance. Backpacks will contain pencils, pens, notebooks, folders, rulers and

crayons.

The event will be held rain or shine and will include free hotdogs, hamburgers and soft drinks as well as face painting and other children's activities. A drawing will be held for a gift card to purchase back to school clothes.

For more information, call the church office at (413) 821-0937.

# Cancer Support Groups open to the public

The Primary Care Cancer Survivorship Program of Western New England, a division of Springfield Medical Associates, offers local cancer support groups, confidential and free of charge. The groups include the following.

**BLOODCANCERSUPPORTGROUP:** Meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Agawam Senior Center conference room. A light dinner is served.

**CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP:** Meets the third Thursday of each month, 6 to 7:30 p.m., at the office of Maryann Paleologopoulos LICSW, Inc., 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam (at the rotary). Refreshments served.

**BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP:** Meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 6 to 7:15 p.m. at office of Maryann Paleologopoulos LICSW, Inc., 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam (at the rotary). Refreshments served.

**GYNECOLOGICAL CANCER SUPPORT GROUP:** Meets the first Tuesday of each month, 6 to 7:30 p.m., beginning Oct. 7. Location to be announced.

For more information or to register, call Paleologopoulos at (413) 789-0200, visit [www.springfieldmed.com](http://www.springfieldmed.com), or email [survivorshipprogram@gmail.com](mailto:survivorshipprogram@gmail.com).

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ICE CREAM COOLS SOCIAL



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Members of the GFWC Agawam Junior Women’s Club recently sponsored an Ice Cream Social for the veterans living at the Holyoke Soldiers Home. After serving the ice cream, club members had the opportunity to visit with some of the veterans and listen to their many stories. Above, Gloria King chats with one of the veterans.



Agawam’s Captain Charles Leonard House will be the setting of a five-course Beer Dinner on Sept. 5 to raise funds for the continued preservation of the structure.

Tavern hospitality on tap with benefit Beer Dinner

AGAWAM – While flip may have been the beverage of choice during the Captain Charles Leonard House’s tavern days, beer will be the featured drink next month when Agawam’s McCarthy Liquors and the Boston Beer Company, brewers of Samuel Adams beer, will sponsor a benefit five-course Beer Dinner at the Captain Leonard House to raise funds for the 1805 landmark’s maintenance and continued preservation. The dinner will be held Friday, Sept. 5 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Captain Leonard House, which has served as Agawam’s Community House since 1939. Advance tickets are required and cost \$35 per person, with all proceeds to benefit the operation and preservation of the Captain Charles Leonard House, considered Agawam’s finest Federal-era building, and which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 and is part of the Agawam Center National Register Historic District.

The dinner will pair various beer offerings with fare from three local Agawam eateries – Murphy’s Pub, (“Rebel Yell” salad, glazed chicken wings, and grilled “apple skins”), 1st Stop Café (Sam Adams Corned Beef Sliders), and the Main Street Deli (homemade macaroni and cheese). The Captain Leonard House will offer a housemade pumpkin spice cake for dessert.

Seating is limited to 55 persons, and tickets must be purchased in advance. Tickets are available at McCarthy’s Liquors, 430 Main St., Agawam; Johnny Mac Liquors, 1949 Wilbraham Road, Springfield; or by calling the Captain Charles Leonard House at (413) 786-9421. Attendees must be at least 21 years of age.

The Captain Charles Leonard House was built in 1805 as a stage tavern to service travelers on the Hartford/Boston route. The house was restored in the late 1930s by Mrs. Minerva Davis, who then established a Board of Trustees to oversee the operation of the Captain Charles Leonard House as Agawam’s Community House, the role it has served since 1939. The house is available to rent for business functions and social events.

For more information, call (413) 786-9421, visit [www.captainleonardhouse.com](http://www.captainleonardhouse.com), follow on Twitter @leonardhouse, or like on Facebook.

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For more information, email [bjanisieski@horizonschildren.org](mailto:bjanisieski@horizonschildren.org) or call (413) 532-0467.

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### Bethany to host support groups

Bethany Assembly of God, 580 Main St., Agawam, invites the public to attend its DivorceCare, DivoceCare4Kids, and GriefShare groups beginning Sept. 3. Meetings will be held Wednesdays at 580 Main St. in Agawam and will meet for 13 weeks; each session begins at 7 p.m. There is a one time cost of \$15, for materials only, but scholarships are available.

Each session of DivorceCare begins with the group viewing a videotape dealing with divorce issues. Some topics include, "What's Happening to Me," "The Road to

Healing," "Facing Your Anger," "Facing Depression," and "Facing Loneliness." All topics essential to the recovery process are produced in an interesting format, featuring real life stories of people who have experienced separation and divorce.

DC4K is a church-based program for children ages 5-11 struggling with the hurt and pain of divorce and separation. Topics include "What's Happening to My Family," "Facing My Anger," "It's Not My Fault," "Forgiveness," and "Loving My Parents." Space is limited to 10 children. To register, call (413) 789-2930.

GriefShare is a program designed to provide ministry and education to those who have experienced loss in their lives. This group is

sponsored by people that understand what someone goes through when they lose a loved one and want to offer comfort and encouragement during this difficult time in their lives. Topics include "The Seasons Of Grief," "The Emotions Of Grief," "Where Is God?" and "Growing Through Grief."

For more information, call Jammie at (413) 789-2930.

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### Playgroup is back at Agawam Congregational

Playgroup is back at the Agawam Congregational Church, located at 745 Main St., beginning Sept. 11. It includes crafts, stories, songs, free play and more on Thursdays from 9:30 - 11 a.m. Playgroup is open to children birth through age 5 with a parent or caregiver and follows the Agawam Public School calendar. For more information, email [jbrownacc@verizon.net](mailto:jbrownacc@verizon.net) or call the church office at 786-7111.

### Millenium Magic Chorus set to kick off new concert series

AGAWAM - With SummerFest 2014 in the books, the Agawam Cultural Council (ACC) is set to begin its next concert series with the 11th season of its "Applause Series" kicking off Friday, Sept. 5 at the Agawam Senior Center with the Massachusetts/Connecticut-based "Millennium Magic Chorus."

Scheduled to start at 7 p.m., the ACC will be sponsoring the women's chorus as they perform doo-wop, barbershop tunes and more modern songs in a free show open to the public. A part of the Sweet Adeline International organization, a worldwide group of singers "committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony," the Millennium Magic Chorus will be bringing a group of 17 singers to the Senior Center out of an outfit of 21. Having previously won four Division A chorus championships among other medals and awards, the group is "one of a kind" due to the absence of a director at its front said founding member and Team Coordinator Beth Paul. "We're an energetic group of women that come from amazingly different walks of life," she said.

"We work in a team atmosphere that focuses on just trying to improve our skills and performances." Planning to sing a capellas and gospel music as well, the team coordinator said the show came about as a part of the group's goal of taking part in local communities and activities.

"What we love to do is entertain," she added. With members from Middletown, Conn. to Boston (Paul herself lives in Agawam), the group performs throughout the two states as singers have an obligation of reaching out to their towns and cities.

### Car show to benefit Shriners, cancer fund

The Friends of Jaime S. Rivera will host the seventh annual Jaime S. Rivera Benefit Car Show, Sunday, Aug. 24, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Agawam High School, 760 Cooper St.

Trophies to be awarded will include Top 10, Best of Show, Kids' Choice Award, People's Choice Award, and Staff's Choice Award in memory of

Rollie A. Jacobs. Dash plaques and goodie bags will be given to the first 100 vehicles. All vehicles welcome. Car entry fee is \$10. Spectators will be admitted free. Donations are welcome.

The day's events will also include food, music, raffles and kids' raffles. Judging will begin at 11 a.m., followed by raffles at 1 p.m. and presentation of

trophies at 2 p.m.

All proceeds from the event will be split between Shriners Hospital for Children and Racing Against Cancer.

For more information, contact Jeff Bovat at (413) 569-2145 or [bovrac17@verizon.net](mailto:bovrac17@verizon.net), Pam Schuler at (413) 789-8165 or [pwolf69@aol.com](mailto:pwolf69@aol.com), or Jason Swindle at (413) 262-9038.

### Public input sought on space and recreation plan

AGAWAM – The public is invited to discuss their views on the town's parks, playgrounds and open spaces at a public hearing to be held Thursday, Sept. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library.

In the fall of 2013, Mayor Richard A. Cohen appointed members of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Advisory Committee. This committee and the Office of Planning and Community Development have been updating the 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan. An Open Space and Recreation Plan outlines a strategy for maintaining and enhancing a community's resources for current residents and generations to come.

A Massachusetts community with an approved Open and Space and Recreation Plan is eligible to apply for a number of open spaces and recreation grant programs. The Plan ordinarily must be updated every five years.

Las year, Agawam's Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee prepared and distributed a survey to Agawam residents. Eighty-five percent of the respondents indicated that the town should promote and enhance existing recreational facilities and open space; 74 percent stated that the town should protect its natural resources (wetlands, watersheds and water bodies). Regarding future open space investments, respondents gave the following the highest priority: walking and hiking trails, 58 percent; bike trails, 47 percent; a town-owned youth recreation center, 45 percent; a new high school track, 45 percent; and a dog park, 45 percent.

For more information, contact the Office of Planning and Community Development at 786-0400, ext. 8738 or email [planning@agawam.ma.us](mailto:planning@agawam.ma.us).

### Leukemia, lymphoma support group to meet

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Family Support Group will hold a meeting Thursday, Aug. 28 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center located at 954 Main St. The purpose of the group is to offer an opportunity to meet patients, family members, friends and survivors undergoing similar challenges of living with a blood cancer.

The meeting, which will be held in the conference room, is open to the public. Pre-registration is required for all those new to the group. To register, or for more information, contact Gayle Bagley, senior patient services manager, at 800-688-6572 ext. 1304 or email [gaylebagley@lls.org](mailto:gaylebagley@lls.org).

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# Public Safety

## — POLICE LOG —

The Agawam Police Department responded to 306 calls for service from Aug. 12 to Aug. 18. The department made 3 arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

**Sunday, Aug. 17**  
Anthony Parks, 41, of 23 Suffield St., Apt. 13, Agawam, was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct.  
Gina M. Magnani-Comtois, 40, of 86 South Park Terrace, Agawam, was arrested on charges of domestic assault and battery, intimidating a witness, and assault and battery on a child with bodily injury.

**Monday, Aug. 18**  
Jason J. Diodati, 32, of 106 Moore St., Apt. 1, Agawam, was arrested on a warrant.

## Hazardous Waste Collection set for Sept. 6

The Agawam Department of Public Works will hold its annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day Saturday, Sept. 6 at the DPW Annex, 1000 Suffield St., from 9 a.m. to noon.  
This program offers residents a safe, economical way to dispose of household items that are flammable, reactive, corrosive or toxic. Solvents, pesticides, caustic cleaners, and oil based paints are some examples of the different types of items that will be accepted.  
For a complete list of acceptable materials, visit [www.agawam.ma.us](http://www.agawam.ma.us).  
This event is free to Agawam residents, but pre-registration is required. Appointments may be scheduled by calling the DPW at 821-0600 ext. 0 or 821-0624.

## Weekly Newspaper Editor Sought

The Agawam Advertiser News, a weekly newspaper with an office in Feeding Hills, MA, is seeking a managing editor to handle day-to-day operations. The preferred candidate will possess strong management, organizational and people skills; editorial experience in news and feature reporting, including writing, editing, assigning, photography, and social media content; have the ability and willingness to represent the newspaper in the community through coverage of meetings/events and involvement in community activities.  
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## FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 66 EMS calls and the following emergency response calls for the week from Aug. 12 to Aug. 18.

On Aug. 12 at 6:40 p.m., the department responded to Channell Drive, no incident found on arrival at dispatch address.

On Aug. 12 at 8:56 p.m., the department responded to Maple Street for alarm system sounded due to malfunction.

On Aug. 13 at 4:34 a.m., the department responded to Mansion Woods Drive for public service assistance, other.

On Aug. 13 at 2:13 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for water problem, other.

On Aug. 13 at 2:20 p.m., the department responded to North Ramah Circle for water evacuation.

On Aug. 13 at 2:36 p.m., the department responded to Dwight Street for water problem, other.

On Aug. 14 at 12:42 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Aug. 15 at 11:03 p.m., the department responded to Bridge Street for motor vehicle accident with no injuries.

On Aug. 16 at 1:57 a.m., the department responded to Mansion Woods Drive for alarm system sounded due to malfunction.

On Aug. 16 at 7:59 a.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for alarm system sounded due to malfunction.

On Aug. 16 at 3:57 p.m., the department responded to Mallard Circle for unauthorized burning.

On Aug. 17 at 10:39 a.m., the department responded to Cardinal Drive for local alarm system, malicious false alarm.

On Aug. 17 at 1:16 p.m., the department responded to Meadowbrook Manor for lockout.

On Aug. 18 at 12:29 a.m., the department responded to North Street for smoke detector activation due to malfunction.

On Aug. 18 at 4:30 p.m., the department responded to Barry Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Aug. 18 at 5:46 p.m., the department responded to Parkedge Drive for lockout.

# Seniors

## Agawam Senior Center

### Weekly calendar of events

Monday, Aug. 25: Friends Trip to Mohegan Sun; 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9 a.m., Painting Club; 9:30 a.m., Line Dancing; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., Bingo; 5 p.m., Zumba Gold.

Tuesday, Aug. 26: 9 a.m., Shuffleboard at St. John's; 10 a.m., Computer Tech. Club Meets; 12:30 p.m., Ladies Billiards, Mah Jongg, Movie ("Heaven is for Real"); 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 4:30 p.m., Yoga; 6 p.m., Beginner Line Dance.

Wednesday, Aug. 27: 8 a.m., Weight

Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Scrabble, Ballroom Lessons; 1:30 p.m., Golden Age Chapter 1 Meeting; 5 p.m., Zumba Gold.

Thursday, Aug. 28: 9:30 a.m., Quilting; 10 a.m., Line Dancing; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Pitch, Free Blood Pressure Check; 6:30 p.m., Pitch.

Friday, Aug. 29: 8 a.m., Yoga; 9:15 a.m., All Media Art; Noon, Canasta; 1 p.m., Pitch, Cribbage, Ice Cream Social In Coffee Shop (\$1); 5 p.m., Zumba Gold.

### Lunch menu

Monday, Aug. 25: Chicken parmesan, pasta and sauce, garden salad, cantaloupe.

Tuesday, Aug. 26: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, pudding.

Wednesday, Aug. 27: Swiss burger topped with fried onions and Swiss cheese, coleslaw, lettuce and tomato, diced pears.

Thursday, Aug. 28: Ham dinner, sweet potatoes, peas, mixed fruit.

Friday, Aug. 29: Stuffed shells in a cream sauce with garden vegetables, Caesar salad, baked good.

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## Riverside’s history exhibit set to open Sept. 7

AGAWAM – Long before people began riding the “Superman,” the “Batman,” or the new “Skyscreamer,” that opened this year, the Cyclone, the Thunderbolt and batting cages were the main attractions over the years at Riverside Park.

David Cecchi, chairman of the Agawam Historical Society, was not an avid attendee of the famed park that originally opened in the late 1800s. He is, however, a very avid fan of the history of the park, which will be on display at the Agawam Historical Museum at 35 Elm St. on Sunday, Sept. 7, and Sunday, Oct. 19. The exhibit will be open from 1-4 p.m. both days.

Cecchi said the park was actually a picnic grove for area residents. In the early 1900s, a carousel and a few mechanical rides were added. Henry Perkins purchased the land in 1911 and transformed the picnic grounds into a small amusement park. The park was closed for 10 years following the stock market crash of 1929. The park was purchased by Edward Carroll in 1939 and re-opened in 1940.

Over time, popular rides like the Black Widow, the Cyclone and the Thunderbolt were added. A log flume ride was also opened and was very popular. The land was taken over by Six Flags in 1998 and renamed Six Flags New England in 2000.

Cecchi created an “Images of America” book highlighting pictures from all over Agawam and Feeding Hills. He found the images of Riverside prompted the need for its own book.

“It’s such a huge part of Agawam and its history,” said Cecchi. “This is a park that has grown right along with the town.”

Cecchi said he acquired many of his posters, photographs and other artifacts through tag sales, auctions and his grandfather, who had many pictures of the park.

“When I received the photos, I knew I needed to do something with them,” said Cecchi.

He admits he spent much of his childhood working at his family farm, but his love of history in town can’t keep him away from collecting photos and artifacts about the old Riverside Park. The park included many classic rides as well as a car racing track for a time.

Cecchi was on hand at last Sunday’s exhibit to interact with visitors and sign copies of his photo book about Riverside’s history. He says trading stories is the best part of showing his exhibit.

“History is meant to be shared,” said Cecchi. “And everyone has a Riverside story from their childhood.”

Ann Miller, a member of the Agawam Historical Society, said many in Agawam have a lot of appreciation for the park, especially with the number of jobs it provides for area youths.

“This park not only has a great history, it has put all three of my kids through college,” said Miller.

She, like Cecchi, had her own Riverside story to share, recalling how her father introduced her to the park as an ice-cream maker running one of the booths at the park many years ago.

## Springfield Symphony to kick off new season Sept. 27

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Symphony Orchestra has announced its upcoming concert season starting with its first concert featuring Ravel’s “Bolero”.

Maestro Kevin Rhodes will lead the orchestra in the kick-off their eighth decade of music with an opening night program on Saturday, Sept. 27 that will include Ravel’s “Bolero”, Debussy’s “La Mer” and “Pictures at an Exhibition” by Mussorgsky.

Later in the season, Rhodes will welcome such world-class soloists as violinists Caroline Goulding performing Berg’s “Violin Concerto” and Axel Strauss performing in Beethoven’s “Violin Concerto in D major”.

Guitarist Denis Azabagic will play in guitar concertos by Vivaldi and Rodrigo, and pianists Sara Davis Buechner in Bernstein’s “Symphony No. 2 The Age of Anxiety” and Spencer Myer, performing Rachmaninoff’s “Piano Concert” for the Season Finale on April 25, 2015.

Also of note is the April 11, 2015 concert “Viennese Choral Spectacular”, which will feature the vocals of soprano Mary Wilson, baritone David McFerrin, tenor William Hite and the Springfield Symphony Chorus, directed by Nikki Stoia with pianist Nadine Shank.

**Pops**

The Pops concert series includes “Home for the Follidays” holiday concert on Dec. 6 featuring guest conductor Harvey Felder

other special guests. Called the “Jeans ‘n Classic Pops Series” they will perform the music of the Beatles, Michael Jackson, Earth Wind & Fire and Chicago. For tickets call 733-2291.



TIMES photo submitted  
**Maestro Kevin Rhodes**

## Historical and Firehouse Museum opens Sept. 7

The Agawam Historical and Firehouse Museum, located at 35 Elm St., will be open Sunday, Sept. 7 from 1 to 4 p.m. A new exhibit, “Riverside Park - A Century as the Playground of the Connecticut Valley” will be featured this year.

David Cecchi, local author, will be present to answer questions and share additional pieces of his collection of Riverside Park memorabilia. He will also be available to sign copies of his book on Riverside Park.

## Upcoming events at Roberta Doering School

The Roberta G. Doering School will conduct its first Grade 5 Orientation for parents and guardians Thursday, Aug. 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the school auditorium. The purpose of this event is to outline school policies and procedures prior to the first day of school.

Additionally, Back to School Night will be held Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 6:30 p.m. beginning in the school auditorium with a brief discussion concerning policies and procedures, and ending with parents meeting with their children’s teachers.

Because students attended orientation in June, it is advised that students do not attend either event due to space constraints.

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Ancient Egyptian God

4. Think about constantly

10. Nursing group

11. Consecrated

12. Preceded A.D.

14. Cattle genus

15. Serpent in Sanskrit

16. Author Boothe Luce

18. Frowns intensely

22. Lower in dignity

23. Passing play

24. Sphagnum moss bog

26. 3rd lightest noble gas

27. Prefix meaning “inside”

28. Transferred goods for \$

30. Literary term for an ocean

31. Hit lightly

34. Allegheny plum fruits

36. Midway between S & SE

37. Supplements with difficulty

39. A quick run

40. Signal sound

41. 13th state

42. Nun garbs

47. Cause to become undone

49. Dwarfed

51. Nazi corps

52. Pail

53. Acid that causes gout

54. Anger

55. Therefore

56. Lackey

58. Second sight

59. Lowest moral motives

60. Drench

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Infants

2. Jacket

3. Unworthiness

4. Bone

5. Dhaka is the capital

6. Relating to musical notes

7. Claviceps

8. Fungus disease

9. Marine algae

12. Number, in base two

13. Skelton’s Kadiddlehopper

17. A dalton (Physics)

19. Sea eagles

20. Fixed charges per unit

21. Incline

25. Three Bears heroine

29. Mauna \_\_\_, Hawaiian volcano

31. Correct coding

32. Type of fruit

33. Brews

35. More frumpish

38. Cook’s bowl scraping tool

41. Express discontent

43. Paris stock exchange

44. Ingest food

45. Expression of disappointment

46. Stars Wars character

48. Limb angulation

50. P.M. Hirobumi

56. Initials of social media site

57. Yukon Territory

Answers on page 18

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# In the Classroom

SEE MORE SCHOOL NEWS ON PAGE 19

## AHS grads grateful to get Six Flags scholarship

By Mike Lydick

Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM - Six Flags New England recently boosted the college finances of two 2014 AHS graduates when it awarded each of them a \$2,000 scholarship.

Alina Radionova, pursuing a career in nursing, and Timothy Consedine, planning a career as a chemical engineer, are the first seniors to receive the scholarships that were created earlier this year.

Radionova said the scholarship will help pay part of her tuition or buy books or other supplies she needs. She will attend the Elms College School of Nursing, which has an annual tuition of \$9,000 for the four-year program.

"I can't pay for everything out of pocket," said Radionova.

She will commute to college and live at home to save money, but still must take out student loans.

"If I hadn't received this scholarship, I would've had to work twice as much to get the money and the help I need to pay for college," she said.

Radionova has worked more than 30 hours a week this summer as a nursing assistant at the Heritage Woods assisted living facility in Agawam.

Consedine, who hopes to work in the pharmaceutical industry, will attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute. His annual tuition is about \$60,000. He was "extremely surprised" to get the Six Flags scholarship.

Consedine said he still hasn't decided how he will use the money.

"It will definitely help reduce some of my expenses," he said. "Without this scholarship, I don't know how I would have made up for that money."

Radionova and Consedine also obtained scholarships from service clubs in Agawam, but the Six Flags scholarship was the largest both of them received.

### More than a check

The Six Flags scholarships, however, are



Turley Publications photos by Mike Lydick

During his tour of Six Flags New England, Tim Consedine (far right) got a close-up look at the park's maintenance facility. Consedine, talking with employees Bob Osgood (left) and Steve Ferrisi, learned about the year-round maintenance work needed at the park.

more than just a check in the mail. Both recipients had the opportunity in August to spend a day at the park for a behind-the-scenes look at some of its operations.

Radionova and Consedine met with Six Flags "team members" who perform work in same field, or as close as possible, to the careers they are pursuing. Jennifer McGrath, communications manager for the park, said she tried to match the career objectives of Radionova and Consedine with similar jobs at the park.

"We have EMTs on site every minute of our operating day to assist guests with any medical concerns or needs they may have," she said.

McGrath arranged for Radionova to meet with and talk to a member of the park's medical team.

Chemical engineering, however, was "a little bit tougher," said McGrath. The park has no chemical engineers, so Consedine spent time with team members responsible for maintaining park equipment and rides.

### A look at how Six Flags works

Consedine got a close-up look at the park's maintenance facility where workers repair and refurbish many of the park's rides. He learned about the safety inspections and year-round work maintenance team members perform to ensure everything functions properly and safely.

"I learned that there's a lot of work that happens when the park is closed," said Consedine. "There's more work involved than I realized, especially during the off season. They don't

just sit around all winter and watch the rides collect snow."

Radionova met with Halli Hunderfund, a Six Flags EMT supervisor. Hunderfund, who lives in Westfield, is also an emergency room nurse at a Hartford hospital.

Radionova - who plans to become an emergency room nurse - was excited about meeting a professional in the field she wants to join.

"I like the action in an ER," she said.

Hunderfund explained that working on the medical team at Six Flags, which has about 20,000 visitors each day, is similar to working in a hospital emergency room.

"We never know what kind of calls we will get; it could be anything from a blister to a bee sting to a fall to a heart attack," said Hunderfund.

She urged Radionova to consider becoming a certified EMT to gain more experience for her nursing career. Hunderfund added that once Radionova was certified, she might be able to work part-time as a Six Flags EMT.

"That sounds pretty cool," said Radionova. "I wouldn't mind doing that as a side job before I get my nursing degree. It definitely would prepare me for working in an emergency room."

### Students encouraged to apply

According to McGrath, the scholarship program was developed to help support the education of future leaders within Agawam.

McGrath, a 2004 AHS graduate, said the park will continue to work with high school counselors to help promote two \$2,000 scholarships that will again be available early in 2015.

To be eligible, an AHS senior must be enrolled in a two- or four-year college or university for the following September. They also must be planning a career in marketing, entertainment, hospitality or engineering.

Selection is based on academic excellence, participation in extracurricular activities and community involvement. Applications, available at the school, must be submitted by May 15.

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# Safety and crime-fighting techniques shine at National Night Out

By Mike Lydick  
Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM - "I love helicopters," said Garry Brinn as he scrutinized the blue and gray police chopper parked on the high school softball field.

The chopper, one of five helicopters operated by the Massachusetts State Police Air Wing, kicked off Agawam's second National Night Out (NNO) Aug. 5. Designated Air Two, it circled the high school sports field before landing shortly after 5 p.m.

Once the whirling blades stopped and the cockpit doors opened, Brinn and other participants flocked to the aircraft for an up-close look. While parents snapped pictures of their kids in the cockpit, Brinn chatted with some of the aircrew and examined nearly every inch of the twin engine turbine-powered helicopter.

"I remember seeing the old bubble-style helicopters that used to fly at the Big E," said the Agawam resident as he viewed at the modern technology and avionics packed into the Eurocopter EC-135T2+. "This one is unbelievable."

Intrigued by helicopters since he was a kid, Brinn came to NNO specifically to see the helicopter.

"I knew it was supposed to land this year, so I got here early," he said. "I've never been this close to one or been able to talk with the crew."

Brinn said NNO is an important event for the community.

"It's a great opportunity to talk with law enforcement people and learn about some of the new things they're using," he said.

**New cruisers 'a good investment'**

On the road in Agawam, police have new crime-fighting vehicles: Ford Police Interceptor Utility cruisers. Similar to civilian Ford Explorer SUVs, one of these all-wheel drive vehicles, purposely-built for police duty, was on display for residents to inspect. The Interceptor Utility cruisers are replacing the department's aging Ford Crown Victoria cruisers.

The first stop Keith Flathers and his family made at NNO was to check out the new cruiser. Police Chief Eric Gillis proudly showed off the Ford cruiser and explained many of its features to Flathers. Gillis said unlike most cruisers, the Interceptor Utility has no traditional roof light bar, which saves money. Instead, it is equipped with flashing LED lights in various locations, including behind the liftgate window, on the outside rearview mirrors and in the grille.

"I was very interested in learning about all the features of these cruisers," said Flathers.



View additional America's Night Out Against Crime photos on pages 14 and 15

Turley Publications photos by Mike Lydick

**Police Chief Eric Gillis shows off one of Agawam's newest crime-fight tools – a Ford Police Interceptor Utility – to Feeding Hills resident Keith Flathers during National Night Out on Aug. 5.**



**Air Two – one of five Massachusetts State Police helicopters – hovers above the high school softball field before touching down. The copter's landing helped to kickoff Agawam's second National Night Out.**

"They're a good investment for the town and are much better than the old Crown Vics."

The Feeding Hills resident added that NNO is a worthwhile event because it allows residents the opportunity "to see the real workings" of the police and fire departments.

"I think everyone in town should come here to see how these departments work," he said.

NNO also featured a number of festive activities and exhibits – from free food to dance demonstrations to face painting to a display of vintage cars. Its main purpose, however, was to showcase the equipment and work of various local, regional and state public safety agencies that serve and protect the town.

In addition to bringing the helicopter, the

state police demonstrated its K-9 unit while Agawam police educated residents about ways to keep children and homeowners safe. The AFD distributed material to help families develop home fire safety plans.

**Firefighters impress with 'Jaws of Life'**

The "Jaws of Life" demonstration by the Agawam Fire Department, one of the most popular presentations at last year's NNO, drew a large crowd of on-lookers. Firefighters cut up an old yellow Ford Focus sedan to show how they use the various hydraulic tools to help extract accident victims.

They pried open and re-

moved the driver's door, sliced off the roof posts and then peeled back the roof. Within minutes, the four-door sedan resembled a convertible. The nearly roofless car would have provided easier access to the interior so emergency crews could remove any trapped victims had it been a real accident.

Sage Sarrazin called the demonstration "really cool." The 11 year-old watched the demonstration with her father, Mark.

"I've never seen how they do this," she said. "It's good to know about this if you're in an accident."

Her father called the demonstration "impressive." The Agawam resident added that it was a good educational lesson for kids about the seriousness of car accidents.

"Kids can learn from this," he said. "At the end of the day, a car is just a hunk of metal. It's more important to save a life than to save a car."

**'Elvis' wraps up NNO**

When outside demonstrations and exhibits ended around 7:30 p.m., participants went inside the school to catch a performance by "Elvis." Ray Guillemette Jr., one of the country's top Elvis Presley impersonators, wrapped up NNO with his Ray of Elvis show.

Nearly every seat was filled in the auditorium as Guillemette – dressed all in white and covered with sequins -- performed his tribute to the late "king" of rock and roll. Many in attendance swayed and swooned just below the stage in hopes that Guillemette would shake their hands or give them one of his trademark white scarves.

Sponsored by the APD, Agawam was among thousands of communities nationwide that held NNOs. Agawam Police Officer Robert Burke, who organized the event, said attendance appeared to be larger than the 500 to 600 people who showed up in 2013.

"This year was a much bigger success in many ways," he said. "I'm extremely pleased with how well it went. We're hoping next year will be even bigger."

Mayor Richard Cohen was equally enthusiastic about the success of the town's second annual NNO. He said it was "a wonderful turnout" by residents.

"NNO is a great family event that brings public safety professionals together with residents of all ages," he said.

**VOTERS, from page 1**

Hampden County Assistant District Attorney Anthony Gulluni of Springfield, and former prosecutor Brett Vottero of Springfield.

Former DA William Bennett, a Democrat, held the office for 20 years before decided not to run for a sixth four-year term. Mastroianni defeated former State Sen. Stephen Buoniconti in the general election.

The DA candidates have debated a few times, last getting together in June to talk about issues facing the county. Springfield Technical Community College held a forum on June 24 asking questions of the candidates. There has been very little action since June among the candidates.

There is no primary scheduled for the state representative seat in the Third Hampden District. Agawam is the largest community in the district that also includes Southwick, Granville and Russell.

Incumbent State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick, is

facing his second straight challenge as retired postal worker Samuel DiSanti has declared his intention to run for the seat again. DiSanti challenged Boldyga in 2012 and lost.

Agawam City Councilor James Cichetti was contemplating a run for the seat as well, and said he was considering a sticker campaign to be a write-in candidate for the Democratic nomination in the primary. However, Cichetti said in early August the plan has been scrapped and he will continue to serve on the council.

Barring any other challengers, DiSanti and Boldyga will move to the November general election.

In the primary for governor, voters here can choose between Democrats Steve Grossman, the state treasurer, or Attorney General Martha Coakley. Republican voters can also participate in the gubernatorial primary as Mark Fisher, a native of Westfield, faces Charlie Baker. Fisher is a part of the Tea Party.

Voters wishing to take part in the state primary on Sept. 9 must have registered to vote by Aug. 20.

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# Agawam’s crime-fighting night a ‘fantastic’ event

By Mike Lydick  
Turley Publications  
Correspondent

AGAWAM - It’s billed as “America’s Night Out Against Crime,” but it became Agawam’s night out against crime when the town held its second National Night Out (NNO) earlier this month.

People came out for an evening of fun, food and festivities with friends and neighbors. They also came to learn more about public safety and crime prevention strategies.

“This is a fantastic community event,” said Lori Saroglou. The Agawam mother returned for her second year at NNO. “It’s a great way to help get my boys excited about public safety.”

“I’ve been well-served by the town’s services during the 40 years I’ve lived in Agawam,” said Irene Scalise, who took in NNO with her daughter and grandson. “It was great to see what our tax dollars are paying for.”

“It’s a great opportunity for my kids to get to know police officers and learn that they can trust them,” said



Melha Shriners Joe Phaneuf (r.), a Springfield resident, and Max Rubacha of Feeding Hills, raise the rear of a Shriners three-wheeled motorcycle for Romano Daniele and his daughter Tatiana, 2. It gave them a sensation of a “wheelie” that Shriners perform in parades.

Kathy Geogina. This was the first year the Agawam resident and her two young daughters attended NNO.

Romano Daniele visited NNO with his wife and children. The Agawam resident, who works for the Hampden County Sheriff Dept., said it was “great to see the community come out to support our law enforcement and public safety personnel.”



Turley Publications photos by Mike Lydick  
Agawam High School Assistant Principal Tom Schnepf admires a 1960 Ford Thunderbird. The convertible was one of several cars owned by members of the Melha Shriners Vintage Auto unit who showed off their classic cars at National Night Out.

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Richard Veighy kneels beside his restored turquoise 1960 Ford Thunderbird convertible. The Agawam resident was one of several Melha Shriners Vintage Auto unit members who showed off their classic cars at National Night Out.

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Sage Sarrazin, 11, and her father Mark look at what remains of an old Ford Focus after a “Jaws of Life” demonstration by Agawam firefighters at National Night Out. The sedan resembled a convertible after most of the roof was removed.

Shane Marinofsky, 3, had a commanding view of National Night Out activities from Agawam’s Tower One – AFD’s aerial ladder truck.



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Agawam resident Garry Brinn is framed by the rear turbine blades of a Massachusetts State Police helicopter. Designated Air Two, it made a brief appearance at this year's National Night Out.



Agawam resident and police officer Richard McDonnell takes photos of his son Logan, 5, sitting in Air Two – the Massachusetts State Police helicopter.



Agawam resident Garry Brinn looks over the cabin of a Massachusetts State Police helicopter. The Eurocopter EC-135T2+ landed at the high school sports field for a brief visit during National Night Out.

## Forgetting something?

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# SPORTS

## Mercadante sets sights on LIU Brooklyn

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
Turley Publications  
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – A second Agawam High School baseball player has made a college commitment in his junior year.

Joe Mercadante, Agawam’s very speedy leadoff hitter and center-fielder committed to LIU Brooklyn over the summer.

Mercadante, who also used to play hockey and was very successful, opted to commit to playing baseball. He had taken some time away from high school hockey the past couple of years after a phenomenal freshman year.

“Baseball started to take precedent over hockey my sophomore year,” said Mercadante. “I am playing high school hockey this year, my senior year, and it is a game that has been very good to me. I am excited to end my hockey career as an Agawam Brownie, and I look forward to beginning my baseball career as a LIU Brooklyn Blackbird.

Mercadante has been at the forefront of Agawam’s offense and defense. He has provided stability in center field during the past two years, and was among the 2013 Brownies that went to the Western Massachusetts Division 1 championship game against Westfield.

Mercadante was having an excellent season this spring despite Agawam’s struggles as a team. Unfortunately, he suffered an extended illness, mononucleosis, and only participated for part of the regular season. He did return near the end of the regular season and the spent some time playing American Legion baseball for Post 185.

The illness did cause some pressure in the college choosing process.

“At times the recruiting process was stressful,” he said. “Especially when I came down with mono at a crucial recruiting point during the season. But once I came across

See LIU, page 17



By Gregory A. Scibelli  
Turley Publications  
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam Youth Football League Seniors got their first taste of action last Saturday morning at the new Suburban Amateur Foot-

ball League Kickoff Jamboree held at East Longmeadow High School.

The Warriors, who went all the way and won the Super Bowl last season, started out the preseason scrimmage with an impressive group of plays against South Hadley.

Seniors Coach Mike Ryan

said he was really happy with the opportunity to get his players out on the field and show what they have to offer them.

He does wish the jamboree was held a bit later in the pre-season, but understands that time is crunched heading to-

See SENIORS, page 19

Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Two receivers vie with a South Hadley defender for a pass.

## Young champs look to stay on right track

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
Turley Publications  
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – Even though the Agawam Youth Football Pee Wee team is coming off a Super Bowl championship in the introductory third- and fourth-grade division, the rules have not changed for the team.

The priorities of family, school, then football are being pushed heavily with the younger players, their coach Brett McLaughlin said. He and the coaching staff believe the value system is important to install on players throughout the youth football experience. Starting it at the youngest level is a huge priority.

“We want to introduce them to the game of football,” said McLaughlin. “We want to teach them all the proper techniques now so that they can be really good players in the future. But we want these kids to realize their family and getting good grades in school comes first.

Last Saturday morning, the young players, especially the third graders, faced opponents from another team for the very first time as the Pee Wees faced off against South Hadley in the Suburban Amateur Football League’s Kick-off Jamboree.

Overall, McLaughlin was very pleased with how the plays were executed, especially the play of Noah Jodoin, the team’s quarterback.

“He was with the team last year and did really well,” said McLaughlin. “He has the ability to throw the ball which is rare at this level. It allows us to mix up plays and do some different things.”

Jodoin was able to complete a few passes in the scrimmage and is heading into the regular season as the starter.

“He has worked really hard to

See YOUNG, page 17

## Hill Road too bumpy for Agawam

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
Turley Publications  
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – The Agawam High School girls basketball team were eliminated in the quarter-finals of the Spec Pond Summer Outdoor Basketball League play-offs on Tuesday evening when they were defeated by Hill Road AC in a difficult game, 31-15.

It came down to depth and excellent shooting by Hill Road, which kept Agawam at bay for the

better part of the game before Agawam got some better shots late in the game.

The two teams were very close during the first several minutes of the first half. Agawam was having trouble getting any quality shots off, but Hill Road also was not shooting very well.

“Their team is very quick,” said Agawam coach Nick Carra. “They were able to move the ball around very well.”

It took a few minutes before Hill Road got their first basket, and they were able to score two more points

with 10:34 remaining when Katie Dobos got a couple of free throws in to make it 4-0 Hill Road.

Agawam got back in the game for a bit when Giavanna Recchia nailed a layup following an offensive rebound.

Molly Breton then got a mid-range shot off and tied the score 4-4 with 5:06 remaining in the first half.

But then things got difficult for Agawam. Hills Road went on to score the final nine points in the final 4:00 of the game. They started moving the ball around better and

picking up the tempo. Their shots also started finding the basket.

Agawam was only able to get two points back before halftime, with Breton connecting again from mid-range. Hills Road would go on to lead 13-6 at halftime.

See BUMPY, page 17

Turley Publications photo by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com

Right, Molly Breton (8) tries to turn the corner as she holds on to the basketball.





# Warriors look sharp in opening scrimmage

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
Turley Publications  
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – Coming off a Super Bowl appearance, the fifth- and sixth-grade Agawam Junior Warriors got their preseason off to a great start as they scrimmaged against South Hadley on the turf of East Longmeadow in the Suburban Amateur League's kickoff jamboree last Saturday morning.

Agawam's three youth football teams all reached the Super Bowl last year in their division. The Juniors were the only team not to win as they fell against rival West Springfield for their only loss of the season.

"It was tough," said coach Lance Dillard. "We were able to beat West Springfield twice in the regular season. They are our rival game and we play them twice. But we just could not get it done in the championship game."

Dillard has lost most of his backfield to the senior team as the experienced seventh-graders moved up to the next age group.

"The new kids we have are doing well," said Dillard. "We just

have to get them used to how we run our plays."

Dillard believes his team will be strong with the running game, and most of the plays ran against South Hadley were running options out of the pistol formation.

Agawam's running game worked very well in the scrimmage against South Hadley. Opposing defenders had difficulty picking up Agawam's depth in the running game.

"We ran the plays pretty well," said Dillard. "I do still see a number of things that we need to work on, though."

Dillard said he was pleased to get the players on the field going up against players that were not their teammates.

"It's a lot different when you have hit someone who is your classmate or teammate or friend," said Dillard. "You get a better idea of how your players will be when they can hit someone on a different team."

For the fifth-graders on the Juniors team this year, Dillard was very proud of how well they came out of the scrimmage.

"They did an excellent job executing the plays," said Dillard. "Especially since they have not been playing for very long in the



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

The Agawam Juniors Youth Football team scrimmaged against South Hadley last Saturday morning. Agawam is gearing up for their season opener on Aug. 31 against West Springfield.

preseason. We are starting to see what we have been practicing come out in the field.

Depth will be much better for the Juniors this season as the numbers

are up in the program. There are 47 players in the program, compared to 34 last season. The increase in numbers gives Agawam a full varsity and junior varsity squad this

year, allowing more players to get more experience.

The Juniors open up the regular season against West Springfield on Aug. 30.

## Hackers for Cancer Golf Tournament scheduled

AGAWAM - The Hackers for Cancer Golf Tournament is once again getting ready to hack the course to raise money for children with cancer and other life changing illnesses. The tournament will be held Saturday, Sept. 20 at Oak Ridge Golf Course in Feeding Hill. The cost is \$110 per person, which includes 18 holes, golf cart, barbeque lunch and a buffet dinner, golf challenges and many raffles. The cost for dinner only is \$25. Children under the age of 9 eat free.

Registration will take place from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch on the pavilion from 11:30 a.m. to noon. The four-person scramble shotgun start begins at noon. A dinner buffet will follow immediately.

The Hackers for Cancer is also collecting new, unwrapped plain white tee shirts, size small and up, and printed duct tape. This will be donated to the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp so the campers can continue to make crafts while at camp.



## HITMEN FINISH OFF PERFECT RUN

REGION - The J.R. Sweeping Hitmen Baseball Team would like to thank their sponsors, family, and friends for all their encouragement, support, and contributions to achieve their goal of playing at The Cal Ripken Tournament in Myrtle Beach.

The Team went 5-0, winning their bracket and was the only undefeated team in the entire tournament during regular play.

Back row (from left to right): coach Bill Sabadosa (Agawam), Johnny Camerota (Belchertown), Josh Pasini (Enfield), Jeffrey Peach (Enfield), Bryan Perlak (Belchertown), Mike Basile (Agawam), Austin Sabadosa (Agawam), assistant coach Scott Ingram (Belchertown) and assistant coach John Dziel (Belchertown). Front row: Mike Pasini (Scituate), Jackson Dziel (Belchertown), Jonathan Ingram (Belchertown), Austin Jones (Agawam), Jack Kamins (Belchertown) and Nate Ayala (Springfield).

Turley Publications submitted photo

## High school fall baseball signups announced

AGAWAM - Agawam Youth Baseball is currently having registrations for the Western Mass Fall Baseball League run out of East Longmeadow.

Games will be on Saturdays or Sundays and will be once per week starting the weekend of Sept. 6.

The league will be working around fall sports.

The cost to play will be \$125 and Agawam will be entering a varsity and junior varsity team. All players that played AHS baseball last year and any Southwick player that played Post 185 Legion senior or junior baseball is eligible.

AHS varsity coach Brian Rheault said, "I hope to see a good turnout for this program that has been created for the Agawam kids, its important to our program that kids stay in baseball shape and I look forward to seeing a good turnout."

To register please go to [www.agawamyouthbaseball.com](http://www.agawamyouthbaseball.com) and click on the register tab. If you have any questions please email [agawamsports@comcast.net](mailto:agawamsports@comcast.net)

The deadline to register is Aug. 15.

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# Veteran’s housing sees some changes

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM – Soldier On is finally moving forward after nearly three years of planning - and more changes are in store. Soldier On has received approvals from the zoning board of appeals and the planning board for modifications to their special permit. They will seek to build an annex building that will house some of the apartment units in the 54-unit building. The modification to the original plan was made necessary after the Massachusetts Historical Commission requested changes to the historic former police training academy building at 702 South Westfield St. Jim Scalise of SK Designs, the architects on the project, came in front of the Planning Board in July and requested the changes, which will include the annex, and the relocation of seven units from the top floor. “The changes that were requested by Mass Historical have resulted in new cost estimates for re-purposing the building,” Scalise said. “Now it is over budget the way the plan stands.” The single story annex proposed will be 56 feet by 56 feet and will be attached to the main building with a covered walkway. The annex will not be visible from the road and will not detract from its current appearance, Scalise emphasized. Seven of the 12 units that would have been on the upper most level of the building will be relocated throughout the rest of the building. Scalise said one unit will be added to the second level, two to the lowest level, two to the annex building and two of them were removed from the plan, making it a 52-unit complex. A two-story addition to the building will no longer be constructed due to budget constraints, and units on the lower level

of the building will not have kitchen and dining facilities. Scalise proposed several changes to the parking area, walkways, service area and outdoor seating, though the 39-spaces will remain the same. The annex will contain a cafeteria and dining facilities for the lower level units. Planning board members asked a few questions about how drainage and other infrastructure issues would work with the revised plan. Scalise presented an updated drainage analysis and is working with the Agawam’s engineering department to address further comments. The planning board’s vote of support is conditional upon satisfying the comments made by the engineering department. There is no estimate yet for the start of renovations to the building. Soldier On creates housing for low and moderate-income veterans. Mass. Historical possesses some oversight of the building due to its historic credit. In January 2013, Mass Historical requested changes to the lobby because it was considered historically significant. Other changes included a request to preserve the stage located on the second floor. All auditorium seating was also requested to be preserved for historical significance. According to Mass Historical, the shift is being requested to “eliminate potential visual impacts that would detract from the historic aesthetic of this structure.” Agawam Planning and Community Development Coordinator Deborah Dachos said she was informed the financing is ready to move forward with the project. “They have finished securing all their local permits,” said Dachos. “They should be able to start the project any time now.”

## RULES, from page 1

ability to veto any secondhand junk dealer’s license. The bylaw says city council is the final granting authority for the license, but must have the approval of the chief of police before issuing the license. The police chief has the right to interview any potential dealers as well and the police chief can deny permits based on criminal records, if they have another license or their license is suspended, or if the conduct of the business would not be in the best interest of the town. Updated record keeping is now required of secondhand shop owners. Special software is needed to keep that information and can be installed by a member of the New England State Police Information Network. The provisions in the updated bylaw will allow the police department to have tools for investigating theft. People who pawn items are required to take information from the seller, including photo identification. A customer will also be photographed at the store. Agawam City Councilors on the Legislative Subcommittee debated on July 29 about the new ordinance. The chair of subcommittee, Councilor James Cichetti, told the council he and Councilors Gina Letellier and Robert Rossi approved some amendments with a 3-0 vote. The amendments to the bylaw were included on a separate sheet of paper and had not been re-written in the bylaw. Among the revisions was changing the licensing authority from the police department to the city council. The council will vote on the licenses, much like their approvals for liquor and car licenses, with the chief of police having the power to turn a license down. Another amendment requested that the police chief notify the council of his or her recommendation of a license within 30 days of the application date. Council President Christopher Johnson said the council had the ability to approve the first reading of the ordinance and the city solicitor could add the language into the ordinance for the second reading. Also included in the ordinance are strict rules for documenting the items coming in and out of a secondhand junk dealer’s store. It requires documentation right down to distinguishing marks of the item. Jewelry will be required to be photographed and must be made available upon police request. A second reading must be approved by the council at their first meeting in September.



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**PROPERTY, from page 1**

through tax title, but would have assumed the cost and liability for the issues on the property. It will cost at least \$600,000 to clean up the property. According to Planning and Community Development Director Deborah Dachos, the property has numerous issues below the surface and the building most also be brought up to code. In January, the city council voted 6-4 in favor of a Mixed Use Zoning in the Walnut Street Extension area. However, the zone change required a two-third majority, and it was shot down. The zoning would allow more flexibility in the types of uses businesses had in the plaza, affecting 19 different businesses. The Planning Board unanimously supported the zone change request and asked the city council to reconsider the zone change.

with the property if he was able to purchase it. He did say the mixed use zone change was part of his consideration and that he wanted to see it go through in order to make the area attractive for his business. He wants to restore the Games and Lanes property back into a prominent piece of real estate. He proposed opening an indoor go-kart track along with other activities in the form of an entertainment center. Games and Lanes previously served that use. Scott says he is interesting in spending the funds needed to clean up the environmental hazards of the property and says he will follow all procedures and protocols to clean up the property. “I like to have things look good,” Scott said. “I want to show this town what can be done with a building that no one wants.” Following the pleas of the speakers, the new zoning was approved. Agawam will now be eligible for grant funding to make improvements to the area. Dachos said the news of Scott closing in on the property purchase is huge for the area. “Obviously, we need a person interested in that property that will be active in getting it cleaned up,” said Dachos. “We hope that this will work out and we can begin improving that area of our business district.” In addition to the cost for the clean-up on the property, there is more than \$31,000 in back taxes owed on the property.

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## GUTTERS

In April, Scott Petlock came forward with many Agawam residents, business owners, and business advocates and requested the zone change be approved. Scott was the most impactful of the speakers, talking about what he plans do



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## Bus trip to Fenway

SPRINGFIELD/PALMER - The Melha Shriners are sponsoring a bus trip to Fenway Park to see the Boston Red Sox take on the Toronto Blue Jays at 7:10 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 5. The cost is \$120 per person and gives you a seat in Section 24, which is located between home plate and third base. The bus leaves at 4 p.m. from the Melha Shrine Center, 133 Longhill St., Springfield, or at 4:30 p.m. from Big Y in Palmer. A bag lunch and beverages will be included. For more information, contact Vince at 413-686-8136.



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Aiden Corriveau tries to make a run up the middle.

SENIORS, from page 14

ward the regular season.

“We have only had about four or five practices together,” said Ryan. “So we have not really been able to get all of our plays worked on. But I got a feel of what several of our players could do today and we will be able to take those things to our practices next week.

“The reality is that it is just a short preseason.”

The Warriors are scheduled to open up the regular season in August for the first time in a few years, getting started on Aug. 31 against West Springfield, their Suburban League rival. They will play West Springfield again at the end of the regular season.

This year, the Seniors have 44 seventh- and eighth-grade players on their roster, enough to field a varsity and junior varsity team. Ryan only brought the varsity players that had been to most of the practices because he did not want to run players out against competition if they were not ready.

“We were missing a few guys today because they are still getting back from vacations and other obligations,” Ryan said.

Agawam will have quarterback Zach Pirnie back this season. As a seventh-grader, Pirnie spent last year with Agawam, giving him a full year of experience at the senior level.

“He’s very athletic and I think he will have another good year,” said Ryan. “As long as he can keep control of the offense, we’ll do just fine.”

After viewing his team in the scrimmage against South Hadley, Ryan thinks the team will be very strong up the middle.

“I have a lot of confidence in our running,” said Ryan. “I also think our offensive and defensive lines will be very good.”

Ryan’s only concern about his linemen is the lack of depth for players above the 135-pound threshold needed to be productive on the offensive line. He worries about having enough substitute linemen when the starters tire.



Cameron Gillis tries to run through traffic on an option play.



Quarterback Noah Jodoin controls the offense.

YOUNG, from page 14

improve a lot,” said McLaughlin. “He spends a lot of time working with his father and knows what he needs to do to lead our offense.”

Last year, Agawam Pee Wee won the Super Bowl against Wilbraham.

This year, Wilbraham will not be in Agawam’s division as the realignment placed the team in the Suburban League with West Springfield, Chicopee, Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, Belchertown, Quabbin and Ludlow.

McLaughlin says he does not care what teams the players are facing.

“At this level, we just want the kids to be able to go out and play and learn,” said McLaughlin. “We want them to start learning skills and learning how to be safe on the field with their tackling.”

Other values seriously emphasized are swearing, bullying, and proper sideline behavior along with the school and family values that are at the forefront of the program.

“Football is a privilege and it should be treated as such,” said McLaughlin.

Each week, McLaughlin chooses a small group of players to be the water boys at the Agawam High School varsity football games on Friday nights.

Agawam opens up at home against West Springfield at 12 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 31.

LIU, from page 14

LIU, all the stress went away.”

He chose LIU Brooklyn because they have a great baseball program and excellent academics. He was also very impressed with the coaching staff.

“Their coaching staff are great people with exceptional baseball IQ’s,” said Mercadante. “From a baseball and educational standpoint, I knew it was a great fit.”

Mercadante says he has been an outfielder primarily throughout high school and he does not expect that to change in the next year or in college.

“I also may see some time on the mound,” said Mercadante, who has pitched very little for Agawam, but has seen mound time in summer leagues.

Mercadante says while he committed before his senior year, he made his choice at the right time.

“I committed right on time, not early, not late,” said Mercadante. “I waited long enough to come to the sense that it was the perfect fit. Although I was being recruited by other schools, there was no better fit than LIU.”

Mercadante’s teammate, Seamus Curran committed to Rhode Island during his junior year.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.



Erin Berthiaume uses a high dribble to keep control of the ball.

BUMPY, from page 14

Hill Road broke the game open not long after halftime as they continued to move the ball quickly, controlled the boards, and shot well.

It took 4:00 before Agawam scored a basket in the second half when Hanaley Santiago connected with a layup.

Hill Road responded a short time later when Liz Beaudry sank a 3-pointer to give her team a 22-9 lead midway through the second half.

For a short time, Hill Road would go up by 20 points, starting the running clock and shortening Agawam’s chances even further.

But Santiago stopped the running clock by sinking a couple of shots, including a short jumper a layup to cut Hills Road’s lead to 31-13. Santiago scored neared the buzzer as well.

“It was a tough game,” said Carra. “They forced a lot of turnovers and forced us to make a lot of hurried shots. I was really proud of how we kept the game tight for a lot of the first half. The girls put out a very good effort. It took them a couple of big plays and they broke it open.”

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# Obituaries & Church News

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

**AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
745 Main St., Agawam  
786-7111  
Interim Pastor: Rev. Tom Howells  
Agawam1@verizon.net  
www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com

**SUNDAY SERVICES** at 10 a.m.  
Communion on the first Sunday of the month  
Church school is in session and fellowship coffee hour follows the service.  
“A place to call home ~ A people to call family”

**AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
459 Mill St., Feeding Hills  
413-786-4174  
Pastor: Ken Blanchard  
Email: agawamumc@gmail.com  
agawamworship.org

**WORSHIP SERVICES**  
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.  
Communion on the first and third Sunday of the month.  
Coffee and fellowship hour immediately after worship. Handicap-accessible at front entrance.  
Worship at Country Estates Nursing Home: 2nd and 5th Thursdays each month at 11 a.m.  
AUMC cooks and serves dinner for the Samaritan Inn homeless shelter on the second Saturday of the month.

**BETHANY ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
580 Main St., Agawam  
(413) 789-2930  
www.bethany-ag.org  
Senior Pastor: Rev. Richard E. Adams

**WORSHIP SERVICES**  
Sunday 9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.  
Christian Education offered during both services.  
Nightlife Contemporary Service: Sunday 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Family Night: 7 p.m.

**CHURCH OF REDEMPTION**  
50 Maple St., Agawam  
(413) 304-2313  
churchofredemptionministries.org

**WORSHIP SERVICES**  
Summer Schedule  
Sunday Service at 10 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study at 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday school for children and nursery for younger children

**FAITH BIBLE CHURCH**  
370 Shoemaker Lane  
Agawam  
(413) 786-1681  
www.jesussaves.7@comcast.com  
Website: www.faithbible-church.org  
Pastor: Rick Donofrio

**SERVICES**  
Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting and Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

**FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC**  
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Pastor: The Rev. Robert C. Donaldson

**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**  
Church School 9 a.m.  
Worship Service 10 a.m.  
Infant and child care provided.  
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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
760 Main St., Agawam  
Agawambc@localnet.com  
www.firstbaptistagawam.org

**SUNDAY SERVICES**  
Worship 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School (grades K - 5) following Children’s Message until 10:45 a.m.  
Youth Study time (grades 6+) following sermon until 10:45 a.m.  
Coffee & Conversation following worship every Sunday

**HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
152 South Westfield St.  
Feeding Hills  
789-2026

**SUNDAY SERVICES**  
Men’s & Women’s Bible Study Groups and Children’s Sunday School Worship Service at 10 a.m.  
Children’s Church for age 3 to high school takes place after the service.  
Nursery available for younger children. A time for fellowship after the service.

**MARANATHA BAPTIST CHURCH**  
522 Springfield St., Feeding Hills  
Feeding Hills, MA  
478-9484  
David L. Short, Pastor

Sunday Family Bible Study Hour, 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Service, 11 a.m.  
Sunday Night Service, 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer, 7 p.m.

**SACRED HEART CHURCH**  
1103 Springfield St., Feeding Hills  
(413) 786-8200  
www.SacredHeartFeedingHills.org  
Fr. Steven Amo

**WEEKLY SERVICES**  
Lord’s Day Masses: Saturday, 4 p.m.;  
Sunday, 7:15 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m.  
Confessions: Saturdays, 3:15 p.m.  
Weekday Masses: Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.  
Special Devotions: Perpetual Novena to the Sacred Heart following the Friday 9 a.m. Mass

**ST. DAVID’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.  
786-6133  
saintdavid@comcast.net.  
www.stdavidsagawam.org.

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**  
Sunday, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

**ST. JOHN’S CHURCH**  
823 Main St., Agawam  
786-8105  
info@stjohnevangelistchurch.org.  
www.stjohagawam.org

**SCHEDULE OF MASSES**  
Saturdays: 4 p.m. & 6 p.m. (Labor Day to Memorial Day)  
Saturdays: 5 p.m. (Memorial Day to Labor Day)  
Sundays: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
Reconciliation: Saturdays, 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.  
Weekdays - Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri., 8 a.m.  
Thursday - Communion Service

## Trading Post Shop to open

The Trading Post Consignment Shop at the Agawam First Baptist Church, 760 Main St., will re-open Wednesday, Sept. 3 for take-in only, no sales.  
Opening day for sales will be the following Wednesday, Sept. 10 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday hours, which are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., will begin Sept. 13.  
For more information, visit firstbaptistagawam.org or like the Facebook page.

## Legal Notices

**LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL**  
The Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, September 15, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.** at the Roberta G. Doering School, 68 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the Petition of Bell Atlantic Mobile of Massachusetts Corporation, LTD d/b/a Verizon Wireless for a proposed Zone Change Plan for property located at 491 Mill Street, Agawam, MA. The Zone Change request is to change the parcel from Residential A-2 to include in the Wireless Telecommunications Overlay District. A copy of the proposed Zone Change can be obtained from the Agawam Planning Office or the Agawam City Clerk’s Office between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. in the Agawam City Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA.  
**BY ORDER OF:**  
**Christopher C. Johnson**  
City Council President  
8/21,8/28/14

**LEGAL AD AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, August 28, 2014 at 6:30 PM**, at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Tirone for work to be performed on Tanglewood Lane subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.  
By Order of **Henry A. Kozloski**, Chairman  
Agawam Conservation Commission  
8/21/14

## HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in the Agawam Advertiser News should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legals for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271.

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# In the Classroom

## Legislature overrides veto, Agawam receives safety grant

**By Gregory A. Scibelli**  
*Turley Publications Correspondent*

AGAWAM – The Agawam Public Schools will have the opportunity to address school safety in the coming year after State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick, worked across party lines to get an override against a veto from Gov. Deval Patrick.

Boldyga, a Republican, worked with the Democrat-controlled State House of Representatives after learning the governor had made a line-item veto of a \$75,000 grant to the Agawam Public Schools.

“We [the state legislature] have been pushing the concept of safety in the schools and looking at funding upgrades to security as well as addressing overall school security,” said Boldyga this week. “The state wants schools to not only have the proper security doors and video monitoring in place, they also want schools to be developing full safety plans in the event of an emergency.”

He chose to pursue grant funding for Agawam because Southwick and Granville are receiving major upgrades to their three public schools in Southwick. Safety is being addressed in some of those renovations.

Russell, the fourth town in the Third Hampden District, does not have a school.

During the budget process in April and May, Boldyga pursued the grant funding for Agawam. He was met with cooperation by his Democratic colleagues in the House.

“We definitely crossed party lines and put partisan politics to the side in agreement,” said Boldyga. “The grant was secured despite the Majority Party’s unprecedented political move in which most local aid amendments were not allowed to be put forward. We all want to protect the students in our schools. School safety is always a big topic.”

When it went to the governor’s desk for approval with the rest of the fiscal year 2015 budget, the grant was vetoed. Boldyga is unaware if grant funding in any other school districts was vetoed as well.

“After the line-item veto, I went to some of my colleagues and asked if they would support an override to get this passed,” said Boldyga. “We accomplished that last month.”

Boldyga is in the process of finding out when the funding will be disbursed to the school district. The grant has a very broad spectrum and can be used for anything related to school safety. According to a press release from Boldyga, a school safety officer could be paid for with part of the grant.

However, if Agawam does hire another employee to address security, such as a safety officer, the school district would be responsible for absorbing that salary in fiscal year 2016. Agawam does have a school resource officer that works with the high school.

Boldyga said upgraded security doors that can be controlled by teachers and armed or locked in certain situations could be purchased with the grant. Video surveillance could also be upgraded at the schools.

“Agawam has the largest school population in the district,” said Boldyga. “It has to make sure the school buildings are secured and I hope this grant will help them address or update their security.”

Superintendent William Sapelli has not said what the money will be spent on.

## Agawam schools slate new student sign-ups

AGAWAM – The Agawam School System will hold registration of new students on the following schedule.

Office hours for the elementary schools are 8 to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. The Roberta G. Doering School and the Agawam Junior High School guidance personnel will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Agawam High School freshman registration will be conducted on Wednesday, Aug. 27 and Thursday, Aug. 28 by appointment only. Call 726-1646 to schedule an appointment.

Agawam High School registrations for grades 10 through 12 will take place by appointment only Thursday, Aug. 28 and Friday, Aug. 29 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. according to how they appear alphabetically.

All guidance offices will be closed from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch break. Appointments may be made by contacting the high school guidance office at 726-1646. The registration schedule is as follows:

Grade 9 students: Last names beginning with A to Z – Ms. Galereave.

Declass Grade 9 students: Last names beginning with the letters A to GL – Mrs. LaPoint; last names beginning with the letters GN to M – Mr. Cohen; last names beginning with the letters N to V – Mr. Meagher; last names beginning with the letters W to Z – Mrs. Niles.

Grade 10 students: Last names beginning with the letters A to GL – Mrs. LaPoint; last names beginning with the letters GN to M – Mr. Cohen; last names beginning with the letters N to V – Mr. Meagher; last names beginning with the letters W to Z – Mrs. Niles.

Grade 11 students: Last names beginning with the letters A to GL – Mrs. LaPoint; last names beginning with the letters GN to M – Mr. Cohen; last names beginning with the letters N to V – Mr. Meagher; last names beginning with the letters W to Z – Mrs. Niles.

Grade 12 students: Last names beginning with the letters A to GL – Mrs. LaPoint; last names beginning with the letters GN to M – Mr. Cohen; last names beginning with the letters N to V – Mr. Meagher; last names beginning with the letters W to Z – Mrs. Niles.

Students who are enrolled in the following programs: Connections (formerly ALP), AOP, Aspire (rm. 32), Room 7 – Mrs. Niles; Collaborative, IOP, and Out-of District – Mrs. Niles.

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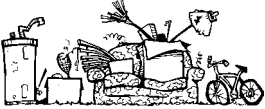
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**THE TOWN OF** Ludlow is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Human Resources Manager. The Manager is responsible for the administration and coordination of the Town of Ludlow's human resources program under the general direction of the Town Administrator and has access to an extensive amount of highly confidential information. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, recruitment, pre-employment screening and background checks, compensation, benefits, personnel policies, employee development, training, ensuring compliance with all applicable state, federal and local laws and regulations, assists with collective bargaining agreements, assists with Civil Service, administers workers compensation and injured on duty leaves, and performs similar or related work as required or as assigned. Candidates must possess a Bachelor's Degree and three years experience in the Human Resources field; PHR Certification and municipal personnel experience preferred. The salary range is \$54,822 to \$73,096. Applications and a complete job description are available online at [www.ludlow.ma.us](http://www.ludlow.ma.us) or in the Board of Selectmen's Office, 488 Chapin Street, 3rd floor, Ludlow, MA 01056. Interested candidates may submit their resumé and completed employment application via email to [aconverse@ludlow.ma.us](mailto:aconverse@ludlow.ma.us) or mail to Town Administrator, Town of Ludlow, 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA 01056 by August 29, 2014. The Town of Ludlow is an equal opportunity employer.

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

**FOR RENT**

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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**Look Park Garden House** – Gazebo, Pine Theater and Sanctuary for wedding receptions and ceremonies, meetings, banquets and events for up to 170 people. 300 North Main Street, Rt. 9, Florence, MA. 413-584-2220. [www.lookpark.org](http://www.lookpark.org).

**Magic Wings Butterfly & Conservatory Gardens** – You and your guests will be surrounded by 4,000 beautiful butterflies in a tropical setting anytime of the year! Accommodations for up to 100 for your ceremony and reception. All inclusive wedding packages available. We also host pre-wedding and rehearsal dinner parties. 281 Greenfield Road, Scenic Routes 5 & 10, South Deerfield, MA. 413-665-2805. [www.magicwings.com](http://www.magicwings.com).

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**Public House Historic Inn & Country Lodge** – Has been creating picturesque New England weddings for over 230 years. Visit [www.publichouse.com](http://www.publichouse.com) or call 1-800-pub-lick.

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**Villa Rose** – 1428 Center Street, Ludlow. 413-547-6667. Banquet facilities for parties large and small up to 200 people. Showers, receptions, graduations and more. Catering available for up to 1,000 people.

**St. Marks Armenian Church** – Conveniently located on the Springfield/Wilbraham line. Wedding Receptions, Bridal & Baby Showers or any special event. Hall seats up to 150 guests with dance floor. 2427 Wilbraham Rd., Springfield, MA 01129. Call Dale 413-531-9653 or email: [ddiefend@charter.net](mailto:ddiefend@charter.net) or visit us online at [www.stmarkarmenianchurch.com](http://www.stmarkarmenianchurch.com).

**The Wherehouse?** – Located downtown in historic Holyoke. The most unusual & interesting banquet function facility you've ever seen! Call today for your appointment, 413-534-3039. [www.the-wherehouse.com](http://www.the-wherehouse.com).

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**Sixteen Acres Garden Center** – The Floral Shop at Sixteen Acres Garden Center has been servicing Springfield for over 50 years. Our professional staff members aim to provide a service that is unique and tailored to suit individual needs. We provide a complete, high quality range at competitive prices. The Floral Shop at Sixteen Acres Garden Center offer flowers that are fresh daily and take great pride in our work. We have arrangements for all different occasions and for different budgets. For a professional and experienced service please don't hesitate to contact us at 413-783-5883. Located at 1359 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, MA. [www.16acresgardencenter.com](http://www.16acresgardencenter.com).

## INVITATIONS

**Ludlow Printing & Copy Center** – Shower invitations, save-the-date cards, Wedding invitations. Largest selection in the area. Just mention this ad for 10% discount. Knowledgeable consultants. 44 Sewall Street, Ludlow. 413-583-5220. Mon-Fri. 8-5, Sat. 9-12. [www.ludlowprinting.com](http://www.ludlowprinting.com).

## JEWELERS

**Silverscape Designs** – was founded by Denis Perlman over 30 years ago and is noted for its commitment to showcasing the work of the finest in American handcrafted jewelry & gifts. Silverscape also specializes in custom designs for that perfect piece of jewelry. Silverscape Designs is located at One King Street in Northampton, MA. [www.silverscapedesigns.com](http://www.silverscapedesigns.com).

**Stevens Jewelers & Diamond Gallery** – A family operated company with wholesale and retail operations. Buying gold, silver and diamonds, jewelry & watch repair, custom design & remounts. Personalized engraving, appraisals. Visit us at our NEW location 1501 Elm Street, West Springfield, MA. 413-731-9800.

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**Michael's Party Rentals** – Showers, ceremonies, rehearsal dinners, receptions. Tents for 10-500. Tables, chairs, dance floors, linens, tent lighting, events, graduations, bbq's. Call 413-583-3123 or visit us on the web at [www.michaelspartyrentals.com](http://www.michaelspartyrentals.com).

**Taylor Rental East Longmeadow** – Family owned since 1970. We have a diverse selection of party rental items to cover all of your party & event needs. We offer full service, delivery & set up. 87 Shaker Road, East Longmeadow, MA. Call 413-525-2576 or visit [www.TaylorEastLongmeadow.com](http://www.TaylorEastLongmeadow.com).



Photos by Aim Images and Karen Geaghan Photography

# Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote “free” events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com), fax to 786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

**Saturday, Aug. 23**  
**THE SPRINGFIELD TURNVEREIN**, 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, features karaoke every Saturday beginning at 8 p.m. The public is welcome.

**Sunday, Aug. 24**  
**A CARD AND COLLECTIBLE SHOW** will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Chicopee Boys and Girls Club, 580 Meadow St. Admission is \$1; kids under 10 are free. There will be over 40 tables, a door prize drawing every 30 minutes, and the club is handicap accessible. For more information, call (413) 593-6046.

**A FREE BREAKFAST ON THE LAWN** is offered every Sunday at 9 a.m. at Hope Community Church located at 152 South Westfield St., Feeding Hills. Everyone is welcome on the “hill” for a good breakfast and good fellowship. For more information, call (413) 786-2445 or email [office@hopechurchagawam.org](mailto:office@hopechurchagawam.org).

**THE HOLYOKE MERRY-GO-ROUND** is open Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. The public is invited. For more information, call (413) 538-9838 or visit [www.holyokemerrygoround.org](http://www.holyokemerrygoround.org).

**Tuesday, Aug. 26**  
**THE AGAWAM SENIOR CENTER** will host a free movie (“Heaven is for Real”) at 12:30 p.m. The public is welcome.

**ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT** meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library. No registration needed.

**THE HOLYOKE MERRY-GO-ROUND**, located in Holyoke’s Heritage State Park, once again offers “2 for Tuesdays” where two riders can ride for the price of one. For more information, call (413) 538-9838 or visit [www.holyokemerrygoround.org](http://www.holyokemerrygoround.org).

**Wednesday, Aug. 27**  
**THE SPRINGFIELD TURNVEREIN**, located at 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, offers Trivia Night every Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. The public is invited to come as one or as a team. Subjects include general knowledge, sports, history, music and more. Prizes awarded.

**WEDNESDAYS AT THE HOLYOKE MERRY-GO-ROUND**, located in Holyoke’s Heritage State Park, are “Senior” days, when seniors can ride all day for just \$2 and when their grandchildren accompany them, they can ride for just \$1 each per ride. For more information, call (413) 538-9838 or visit [www.holyokemerrygoround.org](http://www.holyokemerrygoround.org).

**UPCOMING AND ONGOING LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN CENTER**, at 522 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, will host a free Back-to-School BBQ Saturday, Aug. 30 from 5 to 7 p.m. It will be held rain or shine and will include free hotdogs, hamburgers and soft drinks as well as face painting and other children’s activities. For more information, call (413) 821-0937.

**THE HOLYOKE MERRY-GO-ROUND** will be open Sept. 1 for the Labor Day holiday from noon to 4 p.m. It is located in Holyoke

Heritage State Park and parking is available in the free lot. For more information, call (413) 538-9838 or visit [www.holyokemerrygoround.org](http://www.holyokemerrygoround.org).

**THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE** will present “Norman Rockwell’s World: Tradition and Nostalgia in 20th Century American Art” featuring Guy McLain, director of Wood Museum of Springfield History, at 12:15 in the Museum of Fine Arts, at 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for museum members). Parking is free. For information, call (413) 263-6800, ext. 488.

**THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL’S APPLAUSE SERIES** begins its 11th season Friday, Sept. 5 with a performance by the Millennium Magic Chorus at the Agawam Senior Center beginning at 7 p.m. All Applause events are free and open to the library. For more information, visit [www.agawamcc.org](http://www.agawamcc.org).

**THE ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTER OF WESTERN MASS.**, 56 Margaret St., Springfield, will host a showing of “Rome Open City,” Friday, Sept. 5. Doors open at 6 p.m.; movie will start at 7 p.m. Donation is \$7 for members and \$10 for non-members and includes beverage and snack. For more information, visit [www.iccw.org](http://www.iccw.org) or email [iccw@comcast.net](mailto:iccw@comcast.net).

**THE AGAWAM DOG OWNERS GROUP** will host its second Annual ADOG Field Day Saturday, Sept. 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Shea Field in Agawam. The day’s events will include food, vendors, wiener races, dog photos, raffles and more. The public is invited.

**THE AGAWAM HISTORICAL AND FIREHOUSE MUSEUM**, located at 35 Elm St., will be open Sunday, Sept. 7 from 1 to 4 p.m. A new exhibit, “Riverside Park - A Century as the Playground of the Connecticut Valley” will be featured this year. David Cecchi, local author, will be present to answer ques-

tions and share additional pieces of his collection of Riverside Park memorabilia. He will also be available to sign copies of his book on Riverside Park.

**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** will hold a blood drive for Mercy Medical Center’s blood bank Tuesday, Sept. 9 from 2 to 6 p.m. at St. John’s Church, 833 Main St., Agawam.

For more information, call 786-3091.  
**THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE**, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper Wednesday, Sept. 10 at a cost of \$7 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

**THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FAMILY PLAYGROUP**, which takes place at the church at 745 Main St., Agawam, is open to children birth through age 5 with a parent or caregiver and meets weekly on Thursdays from 9:30-11 a.m. beginning Sept. 11. It includes crafts, stories, songs, free play and more. For more information, call 786-7111 or email [jbrownacc@verizon.net](mailto:jbrownacc@verizon.net).

**THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS** will host a “mini tour” at 1 p.m., led by Bobby Girard, Wood Museum of Springfield History, highlighting “Everett Barney: A Tale of Steel and Ice.” The tour is free with museum admission and secure, free onsite parking is available.

**THE HAWKS AT MT. TOM PROGRAM** will be held at Holyoke Heritage State Park Sunday, Sept. 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All raptor programs are free and open to the public. The “Eyes on Owls” will present once in the morning and again in the afternoon and Tom Ricardi, raptor rehabilitation specialist will present his show at noon.

**YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR CAMPER** may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind at (888) 613-2777 for more information. Towing is free. All donations are tax deductible.

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Your monthly resource for parenting children of all ages

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